

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 NSC-05

ICA-11 PA-01 /091 W

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R 071221Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6345

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSLAEM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECWA, EAID, SGEN, PLO, XF, JO

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT OF ECWA REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE  
INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, AMMAN, MAY 30 - JUNE 4, 1978

1. AT INVITATION OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT, AND UNDER  
AUSPICES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ECWA)  
AND UN CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN  
AFFAIRS, SUBJECT CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN AMMAN MAY 30 -  
JUNE 4. ITS PURPOSE WAS TO DRAW UP A REGIONAL PLAN OF  
ACTION FOR INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF  
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THE CALL FOR MEMBER-STATES AND REGIONS TO ADOPT PLANS  
BASED ON THE UN WORLD PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPROVE THE STATUS  
OF WOMEN. DRAFT PLAN ORIGINALLY PREPARED BY ECWA AND  
SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED AT EXPERTS MEETING IN AMMAN,  
APRIL 15-20.

2. OF THE 14 ECWA MEMBERS, JORDAN, BAHRAIN, SYRIA, IRAQ,

UAE, OMAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, EGYPT, AND NORTH YEMEN WERE REPRESENTED. PLO WAS REPRESENTED BY PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN, ISAM ABDUL HADI. (SAUDI ARABIA, SOUTH YEMEN AND QATAR WERE INVITED BUT DID NOT SEND DELEGATION NOR REPLY TO INVITATION.) OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED ARAB LEAGUE (COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF ARAB WOMEN), ARAB INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (KUWAIT) AND REGIONAL UN ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNESCO, ILO, UNIDO, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP AND ESCAP. U.S. OBSERVERS WERE: ADA ADLER, LABOR FORCE INTEGRATION ADVISER (AID), BARBARA GOOD, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAMS, STATE, ELIZABETH JONES, POLITICAL OFFICER, EMBASSY AMMAN AND CAROL STEELE, ASST. PROGRAM OFFICER (AID), AMMAN. OBSERVERS AND GUESTS OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WERE STATUS OF WOMEN EXPERTS, PRIMARILY FROM U.S. WITH SEVERAL FROM UK AND ONE PAKISTANI.

3. IN'AM MUFTI, JORDANIAN NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, AND HEAD OF GOJ DELEGATION, WAS ELECTED CHAIRPERSON, WITH SYRIA (HAJAR SADEK, PRESIDENT, SYRIAN GENERAL UNION OF WOMEN AND MEMBER, NATIONAL COUNCIL), AS VICE CHAIR. RAPPORTEURS WERE DELEGATES OF IRAQ, EGYPT, LEBANON AND PLO.

4. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN APPEARED FREQUENTLY AT CONFERENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENCE SESSIONS AND PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE IN DISCUSSIONS. MINLABOR ALSO ADDRESSED MEETING AND JOINED CP IN STRESSING NEED FOR INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN LABOR FORCE. STUDY OF REGIONAL LABOR MIGRATION IS PRIORITY CONCERN TO ENABLE LABOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES LIKE JORDAN TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS TO PRODUCE LARGE NUMBER OF SKILLED WORKERS REQUIRED BY REGION.

5. CROWN PRINCE SPOKE OF THE COMPELLING ECONOMIC REASONS IN JORDAN FOR ENCOURAGING WOMEN TO JOIN THE LABOR FORCE, CITING BOTH JORDAN'S AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND DEMANDS OF OIL PRODUCING STATES FOR SKILLED LABOR. NEED FOR GREATER INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IS OBVIOUS, HE SAID.

6. ECWA'S PLAN CALLS FOR ACTION BY WOMEN AT THREE LEVELS: IN TAKING ON LARGER POLICY-MAKING ROLE, IN ACHIEVING GREATER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND IN ATTAINING THESE RIGHTS ON EQUAL BASIS WITH MEN. DISCUSSIONS COVERED PLAN'S 12 CHAPTERS: ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL, IN LEGAL FIELD, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY SERVICES AND WELFARE,

FAMILY AND PERSONAL STATUS MATTERS, IMPROVING  
CONDITIONS OF BEDOUIN AND RURAL WOMEN, PALESTINIAN  
WOMEN, ROLE OF MASS MEDIA AND CULTURE, ROLE OF WOMEN'S  
ORGAN-  
IZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, ROLE OF STUDIES, RESEARCH  
AND DATA COLLECTION AND REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION. DEBATE WAS INFORMAL. POINTS COVERED WERE  
SIMILAR TO THOSE IN OTHER REGIONAL PLANS RELATING TO  
LEGAL STATUS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATION  
AND EMPLOYMENT.

7. IN CHAPTER ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN, PLAN  
EMPHASIZES EDUCATION AND ASKS FOR MORE FUNDS FOR PRIVATE  
COLLEGES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH INJECTION OF  
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POLITICAL ISSUES INTO THIS ITEM WAS NOT EXPECTED, GOJ  
ENSURED AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF SURPRISE BY CAREFULLY  
CONTROLLING DEBATE. CP, MINLABOR AND NCC PRESIDENT ALL  
GAVE INFORMAL PRESENTATIONS DURING THIS SESSION, THEREBY  
REDUCING AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSION. PLO  
REP LIMITED HER REMARKS TO DISCOURSE ON HISTORY OF  
ACTIVISM OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN -- POLITICALLY AND SOCIALLY.  
REMARKS REFERRED IN PASSING TO PROGRAMMING  
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BECAUSE OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION;  
NO REFERENCE WAS MADE BY PLO REP TO ZIONISM.

8. IN SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM, CONFERENCE DISCUSSED UN VOLUNTARY  
FUND FOR WOMEN AND ITS CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PRESEN-  
TATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECTS.

9. PLAN AS REVISED BY SUGGESTIONS MADE THROUGHOUT  
CONFERENCE WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ON JUNE 4. ENGLISH  
TEXT OF REVISED PLAN HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON JUNE 6  
BY DR. ADLER. OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN BY CONFERENCE  
INCLUDE GOJ OFFER TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL INFORMATION AND  
DOCUMENTATION CENTER IN AMMAN AND SYRIAN OFFER TO HOST  
1979 REGIONAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR 1980 MID-DECADE  
WORLD CONFERENCE ON STATUS OF WOMEN TO BE HELD IN  
TEGRAN. REGIONAL WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT ALSO DISCUSSED  
(UNDER ECWA OR OTHER AUSPICES) AS WELL AS IDEA OF FORMING  
AN ARAB WOMEN'S "PEACE CORPS" TO WORK WITH FAMILIES  
IN RURAL AREAS.

10. IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE  
MEETING, U.S. OBSERVERS AGREED THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY  
SUCCESSFUL IN STRENGTHENING BONDS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN  
ARAB WOMEN AND THE FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND GUESTS. CONFER-  
ENCE ALSO SERVED WELL IN HEIGHTENING AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE  
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OF ROLE WOMEN CAN PLAY IN DEVELOPMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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